

## EXHIBIT M

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**CERTIFIED COPY**

COYNESS L. ENNIX, JR., M.D., )

)

Plaintiff, )

)

vs. )

)

ALTA BATES SUMMIT MEDICAL )

)

CENTER, )

)

Defendant. )

)

Case No.:

C 07-2486 WHA

(JCS)

\*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL \*\*\*

DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM ISENBERG, M.D., Ph.D.

VOLUME I

DATE: Thursday, November 29, 2007

TIME: 9:48 o'clock a.m.

LOCATION: MOSCONE, EMBLIDGE & QUADRA, LLP  
220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2100  
San Francisco, California

REPORTED BY: THERESA WARD, C.S.R. 9587



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1 committee of the OB/GYN department.

2 Q And for what timeframe would you say you served  
3 in that role?

4 A I currently serve on that committee.

5 Q When did you start?

6 A I started in 2000.

7 Q Before 2000, did you have any role in the peer  
8 review process at Summit?

9 A Could you define "role" for me?

10 Q Well, okay. How does -- in general, how does the  
11 peer review process at Summit work, from the lowest level  
12 to the highest level?

13 A That is a very complicated and compound question.

14 Q Okay. How can I clarify that for you?

15 A All physicians who are members of the medical  
16 staff are under constant review of their activities. There  
17 are certain kick-outs, indexed outcomes, that are set or  
18 are recommended by the individual departments and are  
19 approved by the medical executive committee that will be  
20 used as indicators to initiate peer review processing.

21 Q Okay. So when when you say, "initiate a peer  
22 review process," what is the process that gets initiated?

23 MS. McCLAIN: Objection. Compound. It assumes  
24 only one process.

25 THE WITNESS: When an unexpected outcome occurs,

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1 related to the individual under review?

2 A Well, bullet point number two of item two says  
3 peers may also include other medical staff members in good  
4 standing, not practicing in the same specialty as the  
5 individual whose case is under review.

6 Q Well, that is peers. Do you understand that to  
7 be the same thing as a peer reviewer in the prior bullet  
8 point?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Oh, okay. So that is synonymous, peer reviewer  
11 and peer?

12 A Yes. I think that that person identified in  
13 bullet point two has been asked to give his or her  
14 evaluation of the case as a peer physician member of the  
15 medical staff.

16 Q Well, it says they may be consulted regarding  
17 specific issues. The peer reviewer comes to a conclusion,  
18 correct?

19 A The peer review body comes to a conclusion.

20 Q Well, doesn't the peer reviewer?

21 A Each individual person may come to his or her own  
22 conclusion.

23 Q Well, okay. Let me step back. I thought that  
24 you said that a nurse could look at an unexpected outcome  
25 and say, I'd like a doctor to look at this.

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1           A     I did say that.

2           Q     And that doctor who would look at that would be  
3     somebody with similar or related training and experience to  
4     the individual who performed the procedure, correct?

5           A     That is correct.

6           Q     And that doctor would reach a conclusion about  
7     whether or not it was within the standard of care, correct?

8           A     I think I said that doctor could reach a  
9     conclusion that it was.

10          Q     Okay. You wouldn't go to -- a nurse wouldn't go  
11     to a podiatrist to determine whether the outcome of a  
12     cardiothoracic surgery was within the standard of care,  
13     would a nurse?

14          A     No.

15          Q     You would only go to somebody who was in the same  
16     specialty, and in this case, cardiothoracic surgery, right?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     If you go to the next page, there is a bullet  
19     point toward the bottom. We are on page D 0852. The  
20     bullet point towards the bottom says, "Circumstances  
21     requiring external peer review." You see that?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     So then it lists some circumstances, the first of  
24     which is "Need for specialty review. When there are no  
25     medical staff members with the identified specialty within

1           A     There are four elected officers of the medical  
2     executive committee, the chief of staff, the vice chief of  
3     staff, the immediate past chief of staff, and the secretary  
4     treasurer.

5           Q     When did the officers ask the cardiothoracic peer  
6     review committee to consider changing its procedure,  
7     approximately?

8           A     We suggested it to them right around the time of  
9     the first minimally invasive surgery cases. There were  
10    refusals on the part of some of the members to be involved  
11    at all in the peer review process regarding Dr. Ennix's  
12    cases specifically. So it became a difficult issue.

13          Q     We are talking about two different things. You  
14    said that you had problems with the peer review process of  
15    the cardiothoracic surgery committee, including the fact  
16    that they allowed the physician being reviewed to attend  
17    meetings, even during deliberations over that physician,  
18    correct?

19          A     Correct.

20          Q     And did the officers recommend that the committee  
21    change those procedures?

22          A     We recommended that they potentially decrease the  
23    number of members on the committee, and we recommended if  
24    they wanted to include the committee as a whole as they  
25    were doing that, when the person under discussion was being

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1 discussed, they would leave the room.

2 Q Approximately when were those recommendations  
3 made?

4 A April of 2004.

5 Q Before that time, were you aware of what you  
6 considered to be problems or inadequacies in the peer  
7 review process of the cardiothoracic peer review committee?

8 A I personally was not aware of any.

9 Q Were you aware of -- let me tell you what I'm  
10 trying to get at. Are these issues that the officers dealt  
11 with only after the issues about minimally invasive cases  
12 came to light, or were these issues being addressed by  
13 anyone before April 2004? Can you enlighten me on that?

14 A To my knowledge, this was never a subject for  
15 discussion in any of my roles as an officer or member of  
16 the medical executive committee, the peer review process  
17 within that division. It became a subject of discussion  
18 with the advent of the minimally invasive questions in  
19 January, early February of 2004.

20 Q So at that time, in that timeframe, how was --  
21 how did the officers communicate their recommendations to  
22 the cardiothoracic peer review committee?

23 A I don't have an existing document to refer to,  
24 but my recollection, and this is going back to early 2004,  
25 so almost four years, was that Dr. Steven Stanten and I,

35

1 after the officers and I had discussed it, met with  
2 Dr. Russell Stanten and communicated that we thought that  
3 the model employed by the department of surgery, which is a  
4 smaller number, not everybody in the department, and that  
5 if the individual member under discussion was on the  
6 committee, she or he would leave the room. We suggested  
7 that that model be used by CT surgery.

8 Q And what was Dr. Russell Stanten's reaction?

9 A My recollection of it was, "We have this method  
10 so that we can all learn from what happens, but I will take  
11 it back to the committee and we'll discuss it."

12 Q And was there subsequent dialogue?

13 A Not that I can recall.

14 Q Did you ever follow up to see if, in fact, they  
15 had changed their procedures?

16 A I did not.

17 Q But it is your understanding that they did not?

18 A It is my understanding that they did not.

19 Q And what is that based on?

20 A The concerns registered to me by members of the  
21 medical staff who are on that committee, that they felt  
22 inhibited about discussing peer review issues regarding  
23 Dr. Ennix subsequent to that date because he was in the  
24 room and refused to leave while those cases were being  
25 discussed.



1 Q Oh, okay. Not the -- we are not talking about  
2 the cases that formed the basis -- the corrective actions  
3 taken against Dr. Ennix?

4 A No, subsequent cases.

5 Q Got it. Okay. Given the concern that you had  
6 about issues being swept under the rug at the  
7 cardiothoracic peer review committee, did you look into  
8 unexpected outcomes of physicians other than Dr. Ennix that  
9 had been reviewed by that committee?

10 MS. McCLAIN: Objection to the term "swept under  
11 the rug." I'm not sure that is an accurate phraseology.  
12 Objection. Vague.

13 THE WITNESS: There were no other situations that  
14 had been brought to my attention by either the chair of  
15 surgery or the chair of anesthesia or both about the  
16 performance of cardiothoracic surgery by any other member  
17 of that division that prompted me to look more thoroughly  
18 at his or her outcomes.

19 BY MR. EMBLIDGE:

20 Q Right. But you had a concern about this process,  
21 correct, at the cardiothoracic peer review committee?

22 A I did.

23 Q Did you initiate any review of any of the other  
24 physicians' cases?

25 A I did not.

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1 Q The outside peer reviewers or reviewer for the  
2 surgical oncologist, what -- who or what entity was  
3 retained to review the surgical oncologist?

4 A I was not party to that, so I don't know.

5 Q What about the geropsychiatrist?

6 A The Mercer Group, NMA was retained, National  
7 Medical Audit.

8 Q And so are you aware of any outside peer reviewer  
9 or peer review body engaged by Summit other than NMA?

10 A I personally am not.

11 Q Why do you qualify that as personally? Do you  
12 have any information that they have engaged someone else?

13 A No, I don't.

14 Q Were you involved in the decision to use NMA for  
15 Dr. Ennix's review?

16 A I was.

17 Q Who else was involved in that decision?

18 A There was a discussion with Counsel, Mr. Shulman,  
19 the director of the medical staff office, and Joanne  
20 Jellin, and I consulted with my predecessor, the immediate  
21 past president, which was Dr. Annette Shaieb, S-H-A-I-E-B.

22 Q You mentioned that you consulted with an office?

23 A The director of an office.

24 Q And is that --

25 A Joanne Jellin.

1           Q     Thank you. Okay. I want to separate for a  
2           second two different decisions, the decision to engage  
3           outside peer review on the one hand, and the decision to  
4           engage NMA to perform the peer review on the other hand.  
5           Okay? As to the first decision, who was involved in that  
6           decision, the decision to have outside peer review?

7           A     That was the ad hoc committee's decision.

8           Q     And was anyone involved in that decision besides  
9           you, Dr. Paxton, Dr. Ly, L-Y, and Dr. Horn?

10          A     Joanne Jellin was present at the meetings. I  
11          don't think she made any subsequent contribution to the  
12          discussion.

13          Q     So other than the four of you, no one else was  
14          involved in the decision to engage outside peer review; is  
15          that correct?

16          A     No. No.

17          Q     The way you have answered the question, it is no,  
18          I'm not correct. So let me ask the question a different  
19          way.

20          A     (Witness nodded in the affirmative.)

21          Q     Was anyone involved in the decision to seek  
22          outside peer review of Dr. Ennix other than you,  
23          Dr. Paxton, Dr. Ly, and Dr. Horn?

24          A     No.

25          Q     Was -- how did you come to the decision to retain

1 NMA to review Dr. Ennix?

2 A As I mentioned, I had been involved in the  
3 initial decision to employ them in the geropsychiatric case  
4 and had been involved in the work product that they had  
5 generated. We, as officers and ultimately as an MEC, were  
6 quite satisfied with the thoroughness, the promptness, the  
7 completeness of their evaluation, and so when we decided at  
8 the level of the ad hoc committee to move to outside  
9 review, they were the first to come to mind.

10 I then discussed that with Mr. Shulman to see  
11 that he agreed with the propriety of that, and I asked  
12 Dr. Shaieb her opinion on whether she, too, had been  
13 equally satisfied with the outcome before we moved ahead.

14 I then -- something that I had not been involved  
15 in doing since I didn't make the initial engagement contact  
16 with NMA for the geropsychiatrist, was I went to their  
17 Website. I looked at their written materials. I saw who  
18 their principals were and what those principals' histories  
19 had been within the context of provision of quality care in  
20 this country, and I felt that they were a reasonable body  
21 to engage.

22 Q Who was involved in the decision to use NMA for  
23 the geropsychiatrist?

24 A The officers ultimately made the decision.  
25 Dr. Shaieb was the chief of staff and made the final -- I

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1 am only presuming, because I know what happened with  
2 Mr. Shulman and I in Dr. Ennix's case. So I'm presuming  
3 that she made that final decision with counsels.

4 Q What role did you have in selecting NMA for the  
5 geropsychiatrist?

6 A We talked about getting an outside reviewer  
7 because of this person being the only member in this  
8 specialty. We queried counsel about experiences in this  
9 arena with outside review organizations and --

10 MS. McCLAIN: Dr. Isenberg, let me caution you  
11 not to disclose what counsel said. You can talk about the  
12 general discussion area.

13 THE WITNESS: And discussed with him this process  
14 and made use of his experience in this arena.

15 BY MR. EMBLIDGE:

16 Q Okay. But did you recommend NMA? Were you aware  
17 of NMA? What role did you have in selecting NMA for the  
18 geropsychiatrist?

19 A I was only involved in the discussions about  
20 getting an outside reviewer, and the next thing I knew, NMA  
21 had been engaged.

22 Q Were you aware of NMA before that?

23 A I was not.

24 Q Do you remember how or who brought up NMA in the  
25 first place?

1 January 4, 2005, letter to Dr. Smithline from Doctors  
2 Paxton and Isenberg.

3 (Plaintiff's Exhibit 1001 marked  
4 for identification.)

5 BY MR. EMBLIDGE:

6 Q Looking at Exhibit 1001, Dr. Isenberg, can you  
7 tell me who participated in the drafting of that letter?

8 A Dr. Paxton, myself, and Mr. Shulman saw a draft  
9 of it. I'm not sure that he was involved in much of the  
10 crafting of it.

11 Q Was anyone else involved in drafting this letter?

12 A Well, it was typed by the medical staff office,  
13 but as far as content goes, I think that is the extent of  
14 it.

15 Q How did you decide what information to put in  
16 this letter? That is a lousy question.

17 How did you decide what to refer -- how did you  
18 decide which cases to refer to NMA for review?

19 A The ad hoc committee first began looking at the  
20 minimally invasive cases, and so the first four cases that  
21 were submitted to NMA were those minimally invasive cases.

22 Q And as to the other six, how did you decide? Why  
23 six? Why these six? How did you make those decisions?

24 A The additional six cases came to light during the  
25 course of the ad hoc committee's meetings. Some were

1 A I think Dr. Smithline.

2 Q And am I correct that you, and as far as you  
3 know, Summit never had any direct communication with the  
4 reviewers, Doctors Breyer or Houseman? Am I correct about  
5 that?

6 A Yes.

7 Q On the previous case where Summit used NMA about  
8 the geropsychiatrist, did the NMA -- what did the NMA  
9 conclude about the geropsychiatrist and his performance?

10 A That it was outside the standard of care.

11 Q When you talked to Dr. Smithline or anyone else  
12 at the NMA, did you ever talk to them about how often they  
13 conclude, in their reviews, that someone is outside the  
14 standard of care?

15 A I did not.

16 Q Are you aware of any time that the NMA has done a  
17 review of someone and not concluded that the doctor was  
18 outside the standard of care?

19 MS. McCLAIN: Objection. Lack of foundation.

20 THE WITNESS: I have no knowledge.

21 BY MR. EMBLIDGE:

22 Q We talked about Dr. Khan and credibility issues,  
23 and then Dr. Lee and credibility issues, and we talked  
24 about the difference between what he said to Dr. Stanten  
25 and what he said to the ad hoc committee about mitral and

1

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 ) ss.

3 COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA )  
4

5

6 I, THERESA WARD, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
7 in and for the State of California, hereby certify that the  
8 witness in the foregoing deposition,

9

10 WILLIAM ISENBERG, M.D., Ph.D.,  
11 was by me duly sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth,  
12 and nothing but the truth in the within-entitled cause, and  
13 that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct transcript  
14 of the proceedings had at the taking of said deposition,  
15 reported to the best of my ability, and transcribed under  
16 my direction.

17

18

19

20

21 Date December 2, 2007 Theresa Ward  
Theresa Ward, C.S.R. 9587

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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COYNESS L. ENNIX, JR., M.D., as  
an individual and in his  
representative capacity under  
Business & Professions Code  
Section 17200 et seq.,  
Plaintiff,

CERTIFIED COPY

vs.

No. C 07-2486

RUSSELL D. STANTEN, M.D. LEIGH  
I.G. IVERSON, M.D., STEVEN A.  
STANTEN, M.D., WILLIAM M.  
ISENBERG, M.D., Ph.D., ALTA  
BATES SUMMIT MEDICAL CENTER and  
DOES 1 through 100,  
Defendants.

-----/  
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DEPOSITION OF:

WILLIAM ISENBERG, M.D.

VOLUME II

Monday, January 21, 2008

CONFIDENTIAL

Reported by:  
Gina V. Carbone  
CSR NO. 8249

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San Francisco, CA 94116  
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1 the NMA -- let me ask that question better.

2 Who decided to send those six cases, as  
3 opposed to other cases, to the NMA?

4 A. My recollection is that five of the cases were  
5 the five cases that resulted in death. Five cases that  
6 Dr. Ennix had done during the time in 2004. And one was  
7 a case that came up during the interview with  
8 Dr. Donovan, during which time he expressed concerns  
9 regarding the consenting process and the management.

10 Q. Okay. That's sort of my -- the next question  
11 I was going to ask, which is what was the criteria used  
12 for selection. But the question I asked is who  
13 selected?

14 A. The ad hoc committee.

15 Q. Were you a member of the ad hoc committee?

16 A. No.

17 Q. But you attended all their meetings, right?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. Why is that?

20 A. The president of the medical staff is an ad  
21 hoc member of every medical staff committee at the  
22 hospital, and has the prerogative of attending any or  
23 none of any meeting that she or he wishes to. I wanted  
24 to preserve the fairness of this process to everybody,  
25 patients, Dr. Ennix, the medical staff, and I felt that

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1 A. Yeah. I'm hazy on that, but that is now  
2 ringing true. I had forgotten that.

3 Q. Why would you, or anyone else at Summit,  
4 review and comment on a draft report from the NMA?

5 A. I can't think of an answer to that.

6 Q. You wanted their own outside independent  
7 review, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So doesn't it seem contrary to that intent to  
10 have them send you a draft for you to review and comment  
11 on before they provided you what was supposed to be  
12 independent outside input?

13 A. Well, you've taken me into the realm of  
14 hypotheticals. I could hypothetically say they could  
15 say this might be at variance with your rules, but we  
16 don't quite know what your rules are. So if you could  
17 provide us with them, then we'll tell you whether we  
18 think this practitioner was within the bounds of your  
19 rules or not. And I could see that as a reasonable  
20 clarification.

21 Q. Okay. If the NMA sent you their draft report  
22 for you to review and comment on before they finalized  
23 it, wouldn't that be contrary to your intent of seeking  
24 an independent outside report from them?

25 MS. MCCAIN: Objection. Calls for

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1 speculation. Lack of foundation.

2 THE WITNESS: I don't know how to answer the  
3 question.

4 MR. EMBLIDGE: Q. Well, would it be  
5 consistent with your intent in retaining the NMA or  
6 inconsistent with your intent in retaining the NMA?

7 A. I think I wanted to see what their work  
8 product was.

9 Q. Of course. But you wanted it to be outside  
10 independent work product, right?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Okay. So my question is, that's what you  
13 wanted. Is it consistent with your desire or  
14 inconsistent with your desire for them to give you a  
15 report that they first send to you in draft form for  
16 your review and comment?

17 A. I don't see why I couldn't see it, as long as  
18 I didn't make substantive changes to it.

19 Q. Okay. So if they sent it to you and you made  
20 substantive changes, that would be inconsistent; is that  
21 right?

22 MS. MCCAIN: Objection. Calls for  
23 speculation. Lack of foundation.

24 THE WITNESS: I think that the document should  
25 be as close to what they created as possible.

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1           MR. EMBLIDGE: Q. Right. So if they sent it  
2 to you for your review and you made substantive changes,  
3 that would be inconsistent with what you wanted in  
4 retaining the NMA, right?

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Did Mr. Shulman, to your knowledge, have input  
7 into the text of the NMA's report? The wording of the  
8 NMA report?

9           A. I'm not aware that he did.

10          Q. Okay. Let's shift focus a little bit and talk  
11 about how issues about Dr. Ennix came to your attention.

12                 The minimally invasive surgery issues; those  
13 came to your attention from Dr. Steven Stanten; is that  
14 correct?

15          A. Dr. Steven Stanten, Dr. John Donovan and  
16 Dr. Maire Daugharty.

17          Q. Chronologically, do you recall the order in  
18 which those individuals brought the issues to your  
19 attention?

20          A. No.

21          Q. Okay. Prior to the time that those  
22 individuals brought to your attention issues relating to  
23 the minimally invasive cases, did you have any concerns,  
24 whatsoever, about the performance of Dr. Ennix?

25          A. I had received, at the end of December,

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1 a regular basis, isn't it?

2 A. In what I felt was a problem-riddled way.

3 Q. What would be wrong with them knowing about a  
4 review of a doctor's cases when that's what they spend  
5 their time doing every month?

6 A. I wanted this done in an expedited way so that  
7 we could have answers that we could act on.

8 Q. I know you wanted it done expedited, but I'm  
9 talking about the word "confidential." So confidential  
10 means confidential from the other members of the  
11 cardiothoracic peer review committee, or confidential?

12 A. From any member -- from any other member of  
13 the medical staff.

14 Q. And you talked to Dr. Moorstein about this,  
15 correct?

16 A. So it would appear from the memo, yes.

17 Q. Do you recall that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And he had what you called a persuasive  
20 recommendation. And one of his recommendations was that  
21 you shouldn't give the impression that you were  
22 circumventing internal peer review process; what did you  
23 understand him to mean by that?

24 A. That we shouldn't directly send these cases to  
25 outside review.

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1 Q. And who were you trying not to give the  
2 impression to that you were circumventing internal peer  
3 review processes?

4 A. Anybody.

5 Q. And why was that important, that you not give  
6 that impression to anybody?

7 A. Well, I don't think that the members of the  
8 medical staff would like it very much -- any member of  
9 the medical staff would like it very much if the  
10 immediate response of medical staff leadership was to  
11 send cases outside for review before the internal  
12 designated body had a chance to look at it. It's peer  
13 review.

14 Q. And here you weren't going to have the  
15 internal designated body look at them, were you?

16 A. I was having a subset of the internal body  
17 look at them.

18 Q. One person. That's the subset?

19 A. That's the subset.

20 Q. Are you aware of any other time where a case  
21 involving a cardiac surgeon was reviewed by a subset  
22 rather than by the cardiothoracic peer review committee?

23 A. I am not.

24 MR. EMBLIDGE: Let's mark as 1079, a document  
25 Bates stamped D4151.

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1 A. I don't know the answer. Dishonesty implies  
2 motivation, and I don't know what his motivation was.

3 Q. Given your concerns about the cardiothoracic  
4 peer review process at Summit, what have you done to  
5 address those concerns systemically?

6 A. Well I had a talk with Russell Stanten, the  
7 chief of service, about the construction of the peer  
8 review committee itself, and the way that I thought it  
9 might be better served to be a multi-disciplinary team  
10 involving anesthesiologists, cardiac surgeons and  
11 calling in cardiologists on an ad hoc basis as  
12 necessary.

13 I suggested that it not be a committee of the  
14 whole. That it, instead, be with representatives. I  
15 suggested that the person under review be allowed to  
16 participate in the process. That is, give their  
17 perspective on the case, but when the final  
18 deliberations went on, that person should leave the  
19 room.

20 Q. And the multi-disciplinary aspect you are  
21 suggesting that the cardiothoracic peer review committee  
22 be composed of cardiothoracic surgeons plus members who  
23 are not cardiothoracic surgeons; is that correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Are you aware of any institution that does



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1 peer review that way?

2 A. I'm aware of a lot of institutions that are  
3 using cross-disciplinary approaches more and more for  
4 patient management. And I think that since it's --  
5 there is nothing that exempts a member of another  
6 department from participating in the peer review  
7 process, it would probably be advantageous to include  
8 them.

9 Q. You haven't done that in OB-GYN, have you?

10 A. Well, we didn't at the -- we did at the Summit  
11 campus, and I believe it is done at the Ashby campus.  
12 Right now there is a neonatologist that sits on the OB  
13 peer review committee.

14 Q. As a member?

15 A. As a member.

16 Q. And are you aware of any institution, not that  
17 looks across disciplinary issues for patient care, but  
18 that has a multi-disciplinary peer review committee,  
19 like you were suggesting to Russell Stanten, at a  
20 department level?

21 A. I am not aware of any that actively do that.

22 Q. So you made these suggestions to Russell  
23 Stanten approximately when? You can give me a year.  
24 Just whatever your best estimate is.

25 A. Yeah. I think probably mid to late 2004, or

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1 early 2005.

2 Q. And what is your understanding about what, if  
3 anything, he's done to act on those recommendations?

4 A. Well, it is my understanding that there are  
5 attempts being made right now to limit the number of  
6 members on the peer review committee. This lawsuit has  
7 cast a pall over that process, however. I don't know  
8 what he has done with the suggestion that I made about  
9 other members. I am no longer chief of staff, so I  
10 regularly don't meet with Russell Stanten about these  
11 issues.

12 Q. Okay. This lawsuit was filed in April of  
13 2007. Between the time you talked to Russell Stanten  
14 and the time this lawsuit was filed, what, if anything,  
15 are you aware of that the cardiothoracic surgery  
16 division did to address your concerns about its peer  
17 review process?

18 A. I am unaware that they did anything.

19 Q. Doesn't that give you concern about patient  
20 care if you think that the peer review process that an  
21 important division like cardiothoracic surgery is  
22 engaging in might not result in thorough objective peer  
23 review?

24 A. Yes. It is concerning.

25 Q. So why not do something about it?

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1           So in contrast to a fairly recent interview  
2 with Mr. Lovin, I wanted to let the ad hoc committee  
3 know that I had heard this. She had written this  
4 letter.

5           Q. Did you call their attention to any letters  
6 that came in from cardiac surgeons?

7           A. I'm trying to remember. The only cardiac  
8 surgeon that I really recall we got a letter from was  
9 Dr. Khan, and the committee interviewed him. So I --  
10 I'm not remembering any other.

11          Q. What about Dr. Durzinsky?

12          A. Maybe he did write one.

13          Q. Did you call that to their attention?

14          A. I can't, off the top of my head, remember.

15          Q. Did you call to their attention any letters  
16 you received from cardiologists?

17          A. I can't recall, off the top of my head.

18          Q. On May 11th, 2005 you decided to summarily  
19 suspend Dr. Ennix, correct?

20          A. That's correct.

21          Q. What was the basis for your decision?

22          A. Falsification of a medical record.

23          Q. Anything else?

24          A. We had recently received the NMA report that  
25 had elements of criticism in it regarding his

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1 performance, his clinical performance and judgment.

2 Q. I know, did that -- did you suspend him, in  
3 part, because of the NMA report?

4 A. Well, it just so happened that that was  
5 received right at the time, and so it was part of the  
6 discussion.

7 Q. I understand. I understand the confluence of  
8 time. I want to know in your decision that you made to  
9 suspend Dr. Ennix, was it solely because of the  
10 falsification of the medical report, or did you decide  
11 to suspend him in part based on the NMA report?

12 A. I believe there were elements of the NMA  
13 report that factored into the decision to suspend him.  
14 Yes.

15 Q. What elements?

16 A. Well, there were elements about judgment,  
17 decision making and documentation that were recurring  
18 themes in the NMA report, and had been made patently  
19 clear to Dr. Ennix on numerous occasions at the  
20 initiation, and through the process of this report --  
21 through the process of this investigation. And so for a  
22 practitioner who was aware that his practice was being  
23 looked at, and who knew that documentation issues had  
24 already been considered significantly poorly done, for  
25 him to falsify the medical record, misrepresent to the

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1 officers about that whole process, to me seemed quite  
2 worrisome.

3 Q. Okay. But what was it in the NMA report that  
4 caused you to summarily suspend Dr. Ennix?

5 MS. MCCAIN: Objection. Asked and answered.

6 MR. EMBLIDGE: Q. Go ahead.

7 A. I thought that I had just said that the  
8 elements regarding technical performance, judgment, and  
9 documentation which were recurring themes in the NMA  
10 report were then reinforced by this huge documentation  
11 problem and falsification of the medical record.

12 Q. At this point, the NMA report, had anyone at  
13 the hospital seen it besides you?

14 A. I'm not sure.

15 Q. And it was a report that was meant to assist  
16 the ad hoc committee, right?

17 A. It was.

18 Q. And the ad hoc committee hadn't reviewed it,  
19 had they?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And Dr. Ennix hadn't seen it or had an  
22 opportunity to respond to it, had he?

23 A. He had not.

24 Q. But you felt it was appropriate to summarily  
25 suspend him in part based on that report?

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1        A. Yes.

2        Q. Why?

3        A. Because I think there were elements of concern  
4 expressed in that report that were reinforced by the  
5 behavior that I had witnessed in what he had done  
6 regarding this case.

7        Q. Even though you, an OB-GYN, were the only  
8 person who had reviewed the report?

9        A. It doesn't take a cardiothoracic surgeon to  
10 recognize fraud.

11       Q. Well, the report did not accuse him of fraud,  
12 did it?

13       A. No. But that's what his suspension largely  
14 revolved around was his fraud.

15       Q. I'm not asking about your allegation of fraud,  
16 I'm asking about you basing your decision in part on the  
17 conclusions in the NMA report.

18       Now fraud, what do you mean by that?

19       A. I mean that Dr. Ennix represented in the  
20 medical record that he had done something, had written a  
21 note on a day that he had not written it. He had  
22 falsely represented that he had done something.

23       Q. Right. Okay. So do you believe Dr. Ennix did  
24 not see the patient on the date reflected in the note  
25 that you are claiming was false?

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

I do hereby certify that the witness in the foregoing deposition was by me duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the within-entitled cause; that said deposition was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of the said witness was reported by me, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting; that thereafter, the witness was given an opportunity to read and correct the deposition transcript, and to subscribe the same; that if unsigned by the witness, the signature has been waived in accordance with stipulation between counsel for the respective parties.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said deposition, nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand the 1<sup>st</sup>  
day of February, 2008.



Certified Shorthand Reporter

CSR No. 8249